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## THE BRITISH COLONIST

Friday Morning, March 23, 1866.

To Advertisers & the Public

**THE DAILY BRITISH COLONIST**, published every morning (twice excepted), the largest and most widely circulated journal in Her Majesty's Possessions on the Pacific.

Resident Subscribers may have the same sent to them by mail, 25 cents per week, by furnishing their address at the Office of Publication.

**THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST**, published every Saturday, at the rate of 50 cents per week, ready for mailing, 25 cents per week, payable to the carrier.

**BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES.**

In future all notices of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, intended for insertion in this paper must be paid in advance. For Births, \$1.00; for Deaths, \$1.00; for Marriages, \$1.00; for deathless, \$1.00, with a liberal advance on San Francisco prices.

### JOB PRINTING.

THE BRITISH COLONIST PRINTING COMPANY have received a large addition to their stock of new and beautiful binding types, will execute orders to the extent with the best materials, at a slight advance on San Francisco prices.

**BIG BEND IN SAN FRANCISCO**

By the arrival yesterday of the Del Norte we find that the excitement in California about Big Bend increases as the spring advances. From present indications, according to some of the passengers who arrived yesterday, the California exodus to Big Bend will reach the ensuing season, at least ten thousand men, half of whom are expected to sail by Portland, and risk the long and expensive line of travel rather than make their journey through British territory. The prejudice against both Vancouver Island and British Columbia is so strong along the Pacific coast that nothing short of a complete revolution in the Government and legislation of both colonies will remove the ban that lies upon them. Yet at the present critical condition of affairs we have the Legislative Council, instead of forwarding the legislative measures of the Assembly, instead of abolishing imprisonment for debt, passing the Homestead Bill, and carrying out the other popular schemes which have been introduced by the majority of the House, fiddling away like so many superannuated Neros. With all our Big Bend attractions—with all our bright prospects the current year—there is enough dead-weight and solidity about the Upper House to sink the country ninety fathoms deep. We have arrived, we sincerely believe, at the most critical period in the history of these colonies—a period that will decide in very quick time whether it is worth anybody's while to remain in the colony. Everything at present looks favorable—population promises to come in quantities that will test the capacity of Victoria to supply it—even the old Victorians who left the country, and are at present residing in California, are coming back. The news from the mines is more glorious than ever, and the people were never since 1862 more hopeful; all that is required, we firmly believe, to enable both colonies to reap the golden harvest, and to lay a stable foundation for their prosperity, is liberal and enlightened legislation.

The Del Norte, owing to her high fares, did not bring up as many passengers as were anticipated, a circumstance which the country has no reason to regret, for it is too early by at least a fortnight for any general rush of miners. The Oregon steamers are, however, travelling at very low rates, and consequently taking very large numbers of passengers. By the Montana, the steamer which started prior to the sailing of the Del Norte, fifty passengers booked themselves for Big Bend, and the next steamer was expected to be crowded. Nothing we believe will prove more prejudicial to the Oregon route than this; for it will be absolute misery to all those who attempt to reach the mines at this season of the year by the Columbia river. There is, in the first place, the dreary, obstructed and expensive line of travel for the miner; and in the second place, the difficulty of getting up provisions. As things stand present passengers can start from San Francisco, via Victoria, a fortnight later than by way of Portland and reach Big Bend sooner, at less than three-quarters the expense of the Oregon route. This fact will not require much time for its elucidation. In the course of a few weeks the opposition steamers of Vancouver Island and British Columbia will be running when the fares to Victoria will be reduced to a very low figure, and miners will be enabled to reach the termination of their journey at a comparatively speaking trifling cost. This is really the great inducement to the California miner just now. Montana, New Grenada and Big Bend are the sources of general attraction, but the two former are distant and expensive to reach, and will therefore only absorb the more wealthy class of miners. The men of moderate means will, as a rule, prefer Big Bend. All doubts about the probability of population are now set at rest, and it devolves on the mercantile and trading class of both colonies to prevent if possible at the mines the calamity of scarcity of provisions.

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### NOTICE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

**M. EDWARD COHEN** IS NOT IN MY employ, either as Purchaser of Fur or in any other capacity; and has not been since the first day of January, instant, and his authority to act for me in any way, or from that date.

FRANCIS G. BURKE.

San Francisco, January 23, 1866.

J. R. STEWART.

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